



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

After suffering through several years of very slow construction activity, the City of Westminster is beginning to see some hopeful signs of recovery. The Shoppes of Meadow Creek have added three new businesses over the summer months: the Young School, a regional, private pre-school; Walgreen's Pharmacy; and IHOP. All will be open by November. Another developer is exploring options for Chipotle Restaurant at the former Lonestar Restaurant location.

Union Crossing, under the sponsorship of the Episcopal Housing Corporation, has four new homes for sale on Union Street. These homes are now ready for occupancy. More details about these homes can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

The Common Council approved a number of capital improvement projects for implementation this coming fiscal year. The first of these—replacement of storm drains on East Green Street and Fitzhugh Avenue—has been awarded to Thomas, Bennett & Hunter (TBH) and work began this month.

Using funds awarded by Program Open Space Community Parks and Playground Program, the City Recreation Department has awarded a contract for the total replacement of the Bishop's Garth playground. This project is underway should be completed by the time this newsletter is printed. In addition, City Park and Dutterers Park benefitted from Project Open Space funds with upgrades for handicap accessibility improvements.

The Maryland Energy Agency awarded the City \$160,000 in grant and no-interest loan funds to retrofit City-owned properties with new lighting fixtures. City Hall, 56 W. Main Street, the Family Center, Public Works facility, Police Department, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Longwell and Westminster Square parking garages will be included in this retrofit project. With over 500 fixtures replaced, the City will achieve significant savings in future energy bills and will also be eligible to receive substantial rebates from BGE for installing the energy-efficient fixtures.

And, since it is never too soon to start planning, we have begun our preparations for the second annual **ELECTRIC PARADE** to light up the sky in Westminster on November 27th. I hope you are getting your electric float ready—the competition for best float will be very competitive this year! Go to the City's website at www.westminstermd.gov for your application and further details.

Sincerely,

Mayor

Bed Bugs Becoming Bothersome

With stories of bed bugs invading homes in major cities like NYC, Philadelphia, and Detroit, people can easily feel far removed from what seems like a metropolitan problem. But there have also been reports of bed bug infestations in homes around the City of Westminster. Bed bugs are small, flat insects that are about the size of a pencil eraser. Unfed bugs are 1/4 to 3/8 inch long. They are brown or red-brown in color and the upper surface of the body appears crinkled. Recently fed, they are engorged with blood, dull red in color. They can be found in mattresses, furniture and clothing, and feed on human and animal blood.



Bed bugs travel through contact with infested furniture, clothing, and even animals. If someone in your household comes into contact with these insects, they could spread to your home, even if you don't currently have issues. Residents are encouraged to check mattresses and furniture for dark blood spots left behind, and the insects themselves.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns consumers not to treat the problem on their own or use strong outdoor pesticides. Authorities around the country have blamed house fires on people misusing flammable outdoor chemicals to fight bed bugs. Consumers are also warned that some products like bug bombs, cedar or other natural oils that claim to be lethal merely scatter the bugs out of sight.

Avoid bed bugs in the following ways: inspect mattresses for bugs and blood stains; wash clothes and check luggage when returning home from a trip; don't take furniture or appliances from street corners or alleys; use caution when buying used furniture.

Again, consumers are encouraged NOT to treat bed bugs on their own with chemicals, but there are ways to help eradicate the pests. If bed bugs are in your home, follow these measures: vacuum mattresses, carpets, floors and small crevices, encase the vacuum bag in plastic and quickly dispose of it outside; seal mattresses and box springs with impermeable plastic or vinyl cases; wash and dry all clothing and linens on high heat; eliminate clutter and dispose of items that cannot be cleaned; seal cracks and remove loose wallpaper.

If you need a pest control company, choose one that has extensive experience with bed bugs. The EPA cautions consumers regarding an increase in pest control companies and others making "unrealistic promises of effectiveness or low cost."

If you reside in a rental unit, contact your property manager, leasing office or landlord immediately so that they can take immediate action. If you suspect you have bed bugs and your landlord refuses to help, call your local code enforcement officer or a licensed exterminator immediately. Note: the exterminator may charge a tenant if you reside in a rental and do not get approval from your leasing office or landlord for exterminator services. (*Information from Baltimore Sun newspaper*)

Union Crossing Homes Ready For Sale!



The NEW Union Crossing town homes are completed!!

The homes will be sold to low to moderate-income families. Union Crossing is located near the intersection of Union Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, adjacent to McDaniel College.

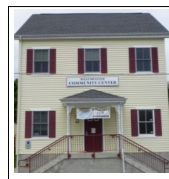
The townhouses were built utilizing modular construction designed to match the existing architecture and fabric of the neighborhood. The homes are 1,450 square feet with three bedrooms, one and a half bathrooms, and a full, unfinished basement.

The homes are equipped with Energy Star appliances and each home has a covered front porch, back yard and two dedicated parking spaces. The home sales prices will range from \$207,900 to \$209,900, with a soft second mortgage in the amount of \$33,333 provided by the HOME funds.

This subsidy will reduce the purchase price to \$174,600 - \$176,000, which is affordable to households at or below 80 percent of area median income.

For information on purchasing one of these homes, OR if you want to see one first hand, contact Sandy Anderson in the Administrative Offices building at 56 West Main Street, or by calling 410-751-5505 or by email at sanderson@westgov.com.

2010 Westminster Community Center Volunteer Recruitment



Have you ever wanted to teach, inspire others, share your knowledge or give back to your community? *Here is your opportunity....*

Think about you or your organization:

What is your hobby? Quilting; Dancing; Singing?

What are your career interests? Financial Planning; Computer Support; Karate or Yoga?

Are you part of a local club/organization? Historical Society; Antique Automobile Club; Bird watching Club?

Do you support a cause? Environmental Action; Single Parent Support;; Adopt a Soldier?

Use the Westminster Community Center to provide a program, class or service to your community:

Who? ANYBODY! No experience in teaching is required....just the desire to add value to your community. Share your interest, hobby or career!

How often? If you teach a course, lead a group, or host a program, at the Center, you can meet whatever time works best with your schedule!

What time? For one to two hours, any time slot between 9 am and 2 pm; OR between 7 pm and 9 pm

Interested? Contact the Board of Shalom at 410-386-013 or westminstercommunitycenter@gmail.com

**Westminster Police Department
Share your crime tip ANONYMOUSLY!**

Use your cell phone to text a crime tip ANONYMOUSLY to the Westminster Police Department by following these steps:

To Text Your Tip:

- Text to **TIP411 (847411)**
- Type **TIPWPD**
- Type your message **(100% ANONYMOUS)**
- Send Message



Learn About Election Candidates



**Learn about Your Election
Candidates on local TV and
Online with OurCarroll.com!**

Throughout the 2010 election season, the Community Media Center is providing information about the candidates and the issues -- on TV and online.

Watch general election forums, sponsored by the League of Women Voters, twice each week on channel 19, Carroll Public Access, and channel 23, the Town and Community Channel, until the election. Visit www.carrollmediacenter.org/schedules for dates and times.

Online, find videotaped candidate profiles and forums as video on demand at www.ourcarroll.com. Click on *Elections 2010* for a listing of candidates and links to essential election information.

For more information, please contact the Community Media Center at info@carrollmediacenter.org or call 410-386-4415.

Upcoming Holiday Events

Save the Date – November 27, 2010!

The Miracle on Main Street Holiday Event Returns to Downtown Westminster!!!

Santa Claus is coming to town again in a big way, as the Miracle on Main Street Holiday Event returns on Saturday, November 27th. The highlight of the event is Westminster's Holiday Electric Parade. Beginning at 5:00 p.m., with lighted floats (2,000+ lights on each float), marching bands, horses, exotic cars, and marching units, Santa Claus will parade down Pennsylvania Avenue and Main Street into Historic Downtown Westminster to the awe and amazement of young and old alike.

But wait... there's more! Immediately after the parade, head over to Locust Lane Park and join Mayor Utz and Santa in lighting the City's holiday tree, awarding the Mayor's Cup for the best downtown holiday storefront, and the singing of holiday carols accompanied by the Westminster Municipal Band.

Closing out the day's free activities will be Santa's Treat at the Westminster Family Fitness Center, 11 Longwell Avenue, beginning at 6:30pm. Santa's Treat is a fun winter carnival, geared to children ages 5-12 years, with games, crafts, face painting and door prizes! Santa Claus will be there greeting and visiting with his fans after the tree lighting.

To find out more about The Miracle on Main Street Holiday Event and what else is happening in Downtown that day, visit <http://westminstermd.gov/mainstreet/mainstreetholidayevent.html>, beginning October 1st.



The Historic Westminster Holiday House Tour

Where? Belle Grove Square Neighborhood

What? An evening of tours of historic homes, holiday entertainment, yummy treats and fun!

When? December 11, 2010 from 4 pm to 8 pm

Tickets? On sale for \$10 in advance \$12 at the door starting November 8, 2010 at 56 West Main Street administrative office, City Hall and various Downtown Westminster merchants

Questions? Please Contact Melissa Hynes at mhynes@westgov.com or at 410-848-7967

Recreation & Parks Department Upcoming Events



Mother/Son Date: October 6

“Rocker”

Daddy/Daughter Date: October 13

“Tie Dye”

Events held at Martin’s Westminster from 6:30-9pm.

\$60 per couple. Boys and Girls must be in K-8th.

The evening includes dinner, dancing, games, door prizes, a 5x7 photo of couple, parting gifts and so much more!

TICKETS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND MUST BE PREPAID. A COUPLE IS CONSIDERED ONE ADULT AND ONE CHILD. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Tickets are on sale now! Space is limited.



October 26 Halloween Parade

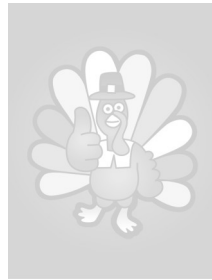
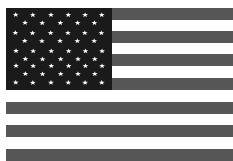
Join us for the annual Halloween parade in Historic Downtown Westminster. All participants can register at 6pm on Monroe St. near Dutterer’s Park. The parade will begin at 7pm down Pennsylvania Ave. and continue down Main St. ending on Longwell Ave. This event is coordinated by The American Legion Post #31. *Call 410-857-7953 for more information.*

October 30 Halloween Bench Press

The Westminster Family Fitness Center is sponsoring the 6th Annual Halloween Bench Press Competition at 11am. The cost to register is \$50. Registration forms can be returned to The Family Center or at GNC in Cranberry Square Shopping Center. Registration deadline is October 10th. Registrations submitted after the deadline must pay \$70. Those entering more than one division will be charged \$70. For more information call 410-751-5501.

November 11 Veterans Day Ceremony

This remembrance service will be held at 4pm at the Westminster Armory (11 Longwell Avenue). The service is open to the public. *For more information call The American Legion Post #31 at 410-857-7953 or 410-876-0746.*



November 22-24 Fall Holiday Camp for Kids

Do you need a safe and fun place to send your 6-10 year old children over the holiday break? Let us help! Register now for fun filled days of crafts, games, sports and snacks. Camp will be held Monday November 22 through Wednesday November 24. Register for one day or all three. Cost is \$20 per day per child with an additional \$5 per day per child fee for before care (7-9) and after care (4-6). Participants need to bring a bagged lunch and a drink. Snacks will be provided. Dress to get messy and have FUN! Registration and emergency information are required.

Westminster Family Fitness Center

11 Longwell Avenue, 410-751-5501

www.westminstermd.gov/recreation/rec_family

The Family Fitness Center is a Full Service Health and Wellness Center for all Ages.

- 19 Circuit Stations
- 9 Plate Loaded Stations
- Smith Machine
- Squat Rack
- Free Weights
- Cross Trainers
- Treadmills
- Stairmasters
- Concept II Rower
- Showers
- Family Lounge
- Foosball
- Air Hockey
- TV with DVD Player
- Arcade
- Play Station Room
- Zumba Classes
- Basket Ball Court
- Aerobic Classes
- Locker Rooms

Open 7 days a week

Memberships and daily guest fees are applicable.

Call for rates or to ask about renting the Gymnasium.

Featuring an exceptional child supervision area with an amazing staff.

MEMBERSHIPS STARTING AS LOW AS \$25!

Hours

Monday-Thursday-5:30am to 10pm

Friday-5:30am to 9pm

Saturday-8am to 5pm

Sunday-12pm to 5pm

Carroll Arts Center Events: September

Thursday, October 14, 8pm: United States Air Force Heritage Aire Celtic Ensemble. The Heritage Aire Celtic Ensemble perform throughout the world as well as locally for community audiences. They will present a wide variety of Irish music and popular pub tunes. Tickets are free. Advanced tickets are available to CCAC members only. Tickets must be picked up at the Arts Center box office. Seating for non-members will be on a first come, first serve basis at the time of the show. Cost is FREE.

Saturday, October 9, 9pm and midnight: Annual screening of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". The evening will start with a Time Warp Refresher Course so everyone is ready to dance when the appropriate time comes in the film. There will be wickedly decadent prizes for the best costumes and a few special surprises thanks to business sponsor Double Diamond Construction. Tickets are \$15 or \$20 for a ticket that includes a goody bag chock-full of all the props you'll need to fully experience this wild cinematic phenomenon. Please note, outside "props" will not be permitted. The film is rated R and runs 100 minutes. FLICC passes and other ticket discounts will not be accepted.



Saturday, November 6, 1pm: Arts Power National Touring Theatre presents "Laura Ingalls Wilder." This uplifting musical follows Laura and her family as they travel across America in search of a place they can call home. Facing obstacles such as a scarlet fever and eviction from their land, their pioneering spirit and family bonds are tested but never broken. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

GROOVY! November 12—14: Travis, Muriel and Alice decide to throw a free 'Music, Beads and Flowers Celebration'. A popular singing group, the Lemon Bugs, love the idea and donate their talent. In no time, crazily-painted busses start arriving at Crumb's Apple Farm, the site of the festival. Everything is going nicely until Mrs. Porter, who hates "The Love Generation," shows up and demands that the local police close it down. If this wasn't bad enough, two music promoters offer the Lemon Bugs a deal they can't refuse if they will skip the celebration. Showtimes are Nov 12, 7pm; Nov 13, 3pm and 7pm; and Nov 14, 3pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.



Friday, December 3, 7:30pm; Saturday, December 4, 3pm and 7:30pm: "A Charlie Brown Jazz Christmas." What do you get when you pair the beloved animated holiday film with a live performance of the film's Vince Guaraldi jazz score? You get a fabulously festive show featuring the renowned Eric Byrd Trio! This annual presentation is always very popular with families as well as discriminating jazz aficionados and is a great way to celebrate the season. Before or after the show you'll be able to enjoy our 13th annual Festival of Wreaths. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.

Friday, December 10, 8pm; Saturday, December 11, 3pm and 8pm: Maryland Ensemble Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol." The acclaimed Maryland Ensemble Theatre brings Charles Dickens' holiday classic to life. Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim are lovingly portrayed in this familiar story of hope and second chances. The whole family will enjoy this beautifully staged production celebrating the true spirit of Christmas. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$13 for CCAC members, students under 18, and seniors.



13th Annual Festival of Wreaths

December 1—5, 10am to 8pm daily except Sunday Noon—4. The Festival of Wreaths has been a Westminster holiday tradition for 13 years. This silent auction of more than 200 uniquely decorated theme wreaths is always a hit. Come and see all the amazing creativity on display. Vote for your favorite wreaths. While you are here you can bid on wreaths for yourself and as gifts for others. Sponsored by PNC Bank and the Carroll County Times. Decorator registration begins October 1st, cost is FREE.

Carroll Arts Center Galleries



October 14 to November 19: "Doing the Ordinary, Extraordinarily" is a thought provoking phrase coined by Maryland pictorialist photographer, A. Aubrey Bodine. He was a talented photojournalist who lived his life between photo shoots and the darkroom tirelessly working to perfect his craft. He posed his subjects, altered his compositions, used his home as his studio and, at age 64, collapsed of a massive stroke in his darkroom.

The Carroll County Arts Council is proud to be presenting an exhibit that uses Bodine's work as the cornerstone. "Doing the Ordinary, Extraordinarily" will feature a selection of Bodine's work, focusing on Carroll County scenes, displayed alongside contemporary works inspired by Bodine's images, created by local artists. The 22 artists who were chosen to participate by curator Susan Williamson and Bodine's daughter Jennifer, are truly among Carroll County's finest talent. All have been featured regularly in CCAC exhibits and have won numerous awards in these shows as well as others in the region.

The show will be on view in the Tevis Gallery from October 14 through November 19. The public is invited to meet the artists at a reception on Thursday October 14th from 5 to 7 pm.

Several of the artists will be reproducing a Bodine image in their own unique style, others, in the spirit of Bodine, are pushing their media further and harder to see what new outcomes can be obtained. Artwork will be created in oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel, photography, felt fiber, mixed media and woodblock cut prints. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Monday – Saturday with extended hours until 8 pm on Thursdays. Gallery admission is free.

October 14 to November 19, 2010: "As We See It"

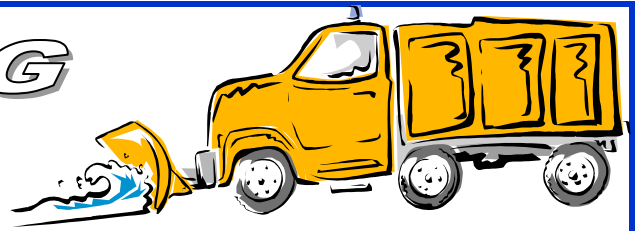
The Carroll County Camera Club will be presenting a member show entitled As We See It in the Community Gallery. The featured photographs will cover a range of subjects and styles, ranging from journalistic to impressionistic.

We hope that you will join us for the opening reception on October 14th from 5-7 PM. We also invite you to visit our club, which is open to both novices and advanced photographers interested in learning about and sharing the joys of photography.

For more information: <http://carrollcameraclub.wordpress.com/>.

SNOW PLOWING

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The City of Westminster is committed to providing safe vehicular and pedestrian traffic under all conditions. The following information is provided to answer questions about our snow removal operations.

How many miles of road need to be cleared in the City? 62.002 miles.

Are there any snow emergency routes within the City limits? No.

Once snow begins to fall, how long does it take the Street Department to begin work? Two salt/plow trucks are on the streets within one hour of notification and ten salt/plow trucks are on the streets within two hours of notification.

How long does it take to salt the streets? Three hours.

How much salt does it take to clear City streets? 50-100 tons per trip.

How much salt is used for a 3 inch snowfall and what is the average cost? 150-300 tons. This year salt is \$61.30 a ton, so material cost is between \$9,195 - \$18,390. Payroll cost is about \$400 per regular hour and \$600 per overtime hour. Total cost is between \$15,000 to \$24,000 for a 10-hour period.

How much salt did we use last year at what cost? Last year 1,642.39 tons of salt traveled 9,828 lane miles at a cost of \$75.60 a ton, totaling \$87,582.60.

When does the Street Department begin plowing? When the accumulation reaches 2.0 to 2.5 inches.

How long does it take for plowing operations? It takes 10 salt/plow trucks and 10 additional trucks approximately five to six hours to remove every three inches of snow.

How fast does a snow plow travel? 5-7 miles per hour is the average speed of a snow plow which limits damage and keeps the snow off the sidewalk.

In what order are the streets plowed? Main collector roads are addressed first, with special attention to steep hills and difficult intersections. These main roads are Bennett Ave, Bond St, N/S Center St, Colonial Ave S, Cranberry Rd, Distillery Dr, Emerald Hill Ln, Englar Rd, E/W Green St, John St, Luther Dr, E/W Main St, Malcom Dr, Pennsylvania Ave, Royer Rd, Tahoma Farm Rd, Timber Ridge Dr, Uniontown Rd, Washington Rd, and WMC Dr. Side streets are next and then dead end streets. The main roads must be cleared even if it means the side streets remain unplowed. Parking lots are cleared after all the streets are finished.

Does the amount of snowfall impact this order? Yes. Once 8-10 inches of snow has fallen, some alleys may not be cleared until the event is over. After 15 inches of snow, the City will concentrate on keeping two-lane traffic on all main roads and one-lane traffic in all developments, while leaving some alleys unclear until the end of the event. The Utilities, Water and Waste Water Departments provide vehicles and drivers to assist the Streets Department during heavy snowfalls.

What do I do if my driveway is blocked because of plowed snow? All snow plows angle the same way—to the driver's right—and when going by your home they will push the snow in front of the driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to their driveway. The only way to avoid extra shoveling is to wait until the crews have done their final cleanup on the street.

How long do I have to clear my sidewalk? Per City Code, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from the sidewalk along their property line within 24 hours after a storm and keeping them clear.